



Annual Report
&
Financial Report
for the academic year
August 2010 – July 2011

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Introduction

Between 300 BCE and 100 CE, Alexandria in Egypt had a large Jewish community. This community then disappeared from history. It is said that the reason it went under was that there were no Jewish institutions of learning that could guarantee the transfer of knowledge and tradition from generation to generation.

Our Foundation, the Levisson Institute, was established with the aim of passing our long chain of tradition on in a thorough and contemporary manner – living and inspiring. This is the essential task of the rabbis, assisted by trained teachers and chazanim who know their material and are able to apply it well. They must be well versed in the specific Dutch-Jewish culture and broadly oriented in the customs and developments in Israel and the Jewish world as a whole.

We are blessed with prominent and dedicated lecturers, a top quality Academic Committee and expert Board members, who are all motivated by their interest to work to ensure the Jewish future in The Netherlands. Together they make up the people-power required to train a leadership of the required calibre.

The main task of our Institute is and remains the training of Rabbis, who are both highly professional and motivated by a strong sense of vocation. They have to be leaders who know what they stand for, who listen to the questions and desires of congregants and non-affiliated Jews, and who flexibly and proactively respond to changing ideas and circumstances.

In this Annual Report you will find descriptions of the main events and developments of our institute in the academic year 2010-2011, from our move to the new building of the LJG Amsterdam until the opening of the academic year 2011-2012. You will also read about our plans and concerns for the future of our programs.

The Foundation and the Institute were formally established on 22 August 2002. At the time you read this, we are therefore in the middle of our 10th year of existence. Around the time of our second lustrum, we hope to send you two invitations. The first will be for 1 July 2012 for the graduation ceremony for 13 new teachers. The second, just after the summer of 2012, will be for the granting of the semicha (rabbinic ordination) for two new Rabbis.

Browse through this report at your leisure and read what is of interest to you. We appreciate your comments and will be happy to answer all your questions and provide additional information should you so desire.



Robert A. Levisson was one of the great liberal Jewish leaders in our country, a gifted speaker and writer and a champion of Israel. He died in December 2001.
Yehi zichro baruch - יהי זכרו ברוך

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1. The 2010-2011 academic year

The opening of the academic year

The new building of the Liberal Jewish Congregation of Amsterdam and with it our new premises were festively inaugurated on 19 August 2010. This was only a short time before the High Holidays, which gave reason to postpone the formal opening of the academic year until after the High Holidays.



On 23 November it was so far. Our President, Prof. Ted Young greeted the Friends and other guests and gave an introduction to the developments and plans of the institute. He then gave the floor to Drs. Bart Wallet, who gave a fascinating lecture about *Citizenship and Religious Identity Politics, the Integration of the Jews in the 19th Century and the Current Dutch Integration Debate*.



Dr. Rachel Reedijk responded from her long time experience of dialogue and interfaith promotion. This was the subject of her doctoral thesis in 2009. The conjunction of the perspective of the cultural anthropologist alongside that of the historian proved to be an excellent combination. Both lectures (held in Dutch) were recorded and can be listened to on the website of the Institute:

<http://www.levisson.nl/en/archive/the-presentations/wallet-a-reedijk-2010.html>

The opening was further enlivened with singing by two of our *shelichay tzibbur* graduates, Miriam Ushpiz and Helma Blankman.



The “Levisson Room” (3.11)



The institute now has a modest but nicely furnished room on the 3rd floor of the new building that serves as a room for lectures, individual study and meetings. A small, specialized part of our library has been placed here for these purposes. The largest part of our book collection, by far, is located in the main library of the building, which we share with the LJG and that is also used as a lecture and study area (see page 10).

Contents of the academic year, five visiting lecturers from abroad



Once in the new premises, the year could proceed according to plan. Clary Rooda and Ira Goldberg completed their academic programs of Talmud and Modern Jewish Philosophy.

Rabbi Prof. Jonathan Magonet, the former Principal of the Leo Baeck College and Professor of Tanach there visited us several times to give a final series of intensive classes on Tanach.

The Vocational Training in this year had three parts. The first consisted of a series of training sessions in Mediation and Conflict Management, by Marga Schreuder LL.M. of the Centre for Conflict Control in Haarlem (North Holland).

This was followed by two parts, given by the Dean of our institute, Rabbi David Lilienthal. The first consisted of a series analysing Modern Responsa (*Shutim*, questions to and answers from scholars and sages on new and contemporary problems the rabbis faced), amounting to learning how to handle the traditional *halakhah* and Rabbinic sources and their authority, when dealing with practicalities of the world we live in and the real problems of real people. The second part was a series on Rabbinic Practice, on the practical application of everything they have studied over the years.. Here (and in many conversations outside the classes) complicated situations and questions from their own practice were discussed.

In addition to Rabbi Magonet we have been privileged this year to welcome four other visiting lecturers from abroad. Since we were not able to realize the planned Professional Development, the Dutch Rabbis were invited to participate in these four day seminars. Several of our Levisson rabbinical graduates made use of these invitations.

In May 2010 **Rabbi Prof. Reuven Firestone** of the Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles campus taught and analysed texts on Islam and the historical and contemporary relationship between Muslims and Jews. Rabbi Firestone is not only Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam at HUC, but also the initiator and co-director of the Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement at the University of Southern California. In addition to this seminar, he led a workshop for participants in the dialogue groups in our communities on the manner in which his Center successfully goes about keeping the dialogue with Muslims going.



One of the highlights of this visit was his well-attended lecture and dialogue with the Friends and other interested guests on the theme "*A History of Muslim-Jewish Relations: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.*" This lecture (in English) and the entire series of lectures with the texts studied can be read and heard on our website:

<http://www.levisson.nl/en/archive/the-presentations/r-firestone-muslim-jewish-relations.html>



In August we welcomed **Prof. Melila Hellner-Eshed** from Jerusalem. She is Professor of "Jewish Mysticism and Zohar" at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Senior Research Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and lecturer at the Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem campus. Her four day seminar (originally planned for earlier in the year) was entitled "Kabbalah and Zohar"

Prof. Hellner also gave the Opening Lecture for the new Academic Year 2011-2012. This partly took the form of a dialogue with the Friends of the Institute and the other guests. Her theme was inspired by the time of the year, at the beginning of the month of Elul and the preparations for the High Holidays: *"Awakenings, Preparing for the High Holy Days."* Appropriately enough, This time the Opening took place in the sanctuary, which certainly contributed to the special atmosphere she created.



This lecture (in English) can also be heard on our website, where you will also find the relevant texts: www.levisson.nl/en/archive/the-presentations/m-hellner-awakenings-preparing-for-the-high-holy-days.html Prof. Hellner did not, however, want the recordings of her lectures during the seminar made publicly available. These are reserved for the students and rabbis and are placed behind the login on the website.



Rabbi Michael Shire of the Leo Baeck College in London, the initiator and first director of its Centre for Jewish Education, provided a full day of study for our students in the Teacher Training program. There were two lectures titled *Jewish approaches to God* and *The Psychology of Religious Growth*. Teaching children about God is a very special task, in particular if you do not want to convey the

classic image of God as the old man with a long beard sitting on his cloud with a large book before him in which everything we do in life is written down. But if that is not what you want, then what is that you should teach? The day was exciting, with much discussion and an unusual excursion into nature. If the students have learned nothing else, then at least they have heard—and hopefully understood—that we all have to learn to live with uncertainties and that it is possible to talk about them, and, yes, teach them. See further on page 8.

Danny Maseng

The plans for a Professional Development program for the *shelichay tzibbur* could also not be realized this year due to lack of finances. However, on May 10 and thanks to a special donor, cantor Danny Maseng of Temple Israel, Los Angeles, could give them, as part of the program, a workshop to which a number of people involved in synagogue music were also invited. The workshop was well attended and the content most impressive. This is also recorded on the website:



<http://www.levisson.nl/en/archive/the-presentations/workshop-chazzan-d-maseng.html>

The sheet music for the pieces discussed is, with permission, also published here. However, this is meant only for personal study of the music. We trust that you will respect the copyright and not make any other use of it, commercial or otherwise.

The Rabbinic students

On page 5 we said a few words about the progress of the student rabbis during the year. In last year's report we also told a few things about their personal situation and activities (<http://www.levisson.nl/en/about-us/annual-reports.html>). Until the end of the year covered in this report, no essential changes have occurred in their lives.

Clary Rooda and Ira Goldberg both completed their required academic program, with the sole exception of 12 hours Modern Jewish Philosophy, which they followed in the autumn of 2011. In that period, they also started their background reading and research in order to decide on the most appropriate subject for their theses and to formulate their respective research question.



Clary intends to delve into recent developments in what is called "eco-kashrut" and the new *Hechsher Tzedek* kashrut certification, introduced last year in America by the Conservative Movement and Modern Orthodox groups. This certification not only makes high demands on the method of slaughter, but also on the living conditions of the animals from birth until the slaughter and on the working conditions of the personnel working with the animals. Clary wants to relate this to classical rabbinic concepts like *Bal tashchit* or the mitzva of caring for creation in all its aspects. Alongside her studies, she continues her work at Beit Ha'Chidush in Amsterdam and Parnassia in The Hague.



Ira wants to perform an investigation into the ceremonies that different communities practice around the completion of the conversion procedure to formally welcome the convert into Judaism and the community. Hardly anything has until now been published about this, nor is there much material to be found in the common *sidoerim* (prayer books). This means that he will have to conduct many interviews with Batei Din and Rabbis in this and other countries. This work may well lead to an adjustment in the practices in our movement in the Netherlands and to a publication on this subject.

Ira has in this year given considerable attention to learning Dutch and to his "integration course" in Jewish Netherlands (this along with the other studies and besides his family and work). By the end of the academic year the position of Rabbi of the congregation in Tilburg (LJG Brabant in the south of the Netherlands) was opened up when Rabbi Hetty Groeneveld left her position. Since then the rabbinical work has been performed by Ira as part of his internship and under supervision of the Dean who is now temporarily acting as Rabbi responsible for the congregation.

Looking ahead to the current academic year, we would like to mention that since the departure of the interim Rabbi, the rabbinic work in LJG The Hague has been taken care of by two "Levisson-rabbis". In Amsterdam, our rabbinic students were invited to apply for the position next to Rabbi Menno ten Brink.

Sometime in the middle of 2012 we hope to send out invitations for the ordination (granting of the *semicha*) for these two students.



David Snuijf, the third student rabbi in the program has worked intensively on his Hebrew with dr. Martin Baasten (Leiden University). After a long period recovering from a car accident in 2008 he was fully back in the program at the beginning of the year 2010-2011. He has yet to cover the content that Clary and Ira have done in this year. We hope to give him the *semicha* after the summer of 2013.

New students

As mentioned in last year's report, our expectation is that we will need a new group of Rabbis not later than the year 2020. For this reason we are now planning to start with a next group of students in the autumn of 2013 and that we will start with the recruitment in the middle of 2012.

We have taken no action on recruitment until now, since we need to be certain that the funding for the 5-6 years that the study lasts will become available. This was the case when both the first and the second group started, thanks to financial commitments by a number of Friends and foundations. Meanwhile, regrettably, two foundations have not renewed our subsidies. This did not come as a surprise since they were granted in the form of support for the initial phase of the Levisson Institute. One of these foundations, however, was a major contributor and losing this income has engendered a difficult financial problem that has yet to be resolved. The start-up subsidies have been effective, but, although the Institute has been established and proven itself, we do not produce any "goods" that can generate new revenue. Rest assured, solutions are being actively sought to ensure the continuity of the Levisson rabbinical program.

The Teacher Training program



This program started on 13 June 2010 in Amsterdam, as an early start for the new academic year. After the High Holidays the study days were moved to LJJ The Hague for practical reasons.

At the start we had 14 students from The Hague, Utrecht, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Several students stopped their study in an early phase since they could not keep up, but others, including some from other congregations, have taken their places. There are now 13 students from 6 of our 10 congregations. They can be seen at <http://www.levisson.nl/en/study-programs/teacher-training-course/students-in-the-teacher-training-program.html>

The 10 study days of the first year went well. The mornings were devoted to deepening the students' Jewish knowledge, the afternoons to didactics and pedagogy. In workshops the teaching methods used in the LJJs were taught, wherein the topics of the morning were translated into lessons. During the year two topics were treated. The first consisted of a series of lectures by the Dean on the content of the siddur. The emphasis was on concepts that underlie our prayers and the views expressed therein.





The second series, dealing with the Jewish calendar and the holidays was presented by Rabbi Marianne van Praag. Rabbi Michael Shire of the Leo Baeck College in London led a full day seminar (see page 6). The year ended with a visit to the Jewish Historical Museum, where Petra Katzenstein, one of our trained *shelichay tzibbur* led a workshop on the educational methods used by the Children's Museum, which she directs.

For the second year, morning sessions are planned such as Prof. Irene Zwiep on Hebrew (Why Hebrew? Or why not?), Dr. Lieve Teugels on Midrash (Where do all those stories come from and what is Rabbinic literature really?), and a seminar series on Jewish History by Drs. Bart Wallet. The students will also spend a study weekend at the Department of Jewish Education at the Leo Baeck College in London in October 2011.

More information is available at the Institute's website.

Historical research project

The project "From Adath Jeshurun to Adath to Jesjoeroen", conducted by Chaya Brasz, is progressing according to plan and begins to bear fruit. The results of this research are exciting. The subject is the developments within (religious) Judaism in the Netherlands that took place in the 19th and 20th centuries, a virtually unexplored region of our Dutch-Jewish history.



Let us show two examples of what has been discovered.

During the twelfth International Symposium on the History and Culture of the Dutch Jews, that was held in Jerusalem in November 2011, Chaya Brasz gave a talk entitled "*For the Deaf and Dumb? Confirmation Ceremonies in Dutch Judaism*". This is a phenomenon about which very little is known. She could report that, just as in Germany, such ceremonies had taken place in the Dutch Orthodox congregations alongside the traditional bar mitzvah ceremony for the boys. In the Netherlands this was part of an overall effort to adapt Judaism to the local Christian religious culture.

Most 'Confirmations' occurred between 1829 and about 1870, but a few followed later, until almost the end of the 19th century. Interestingly, it started with a few Jewish deaf children in Groningen as an alternative to the bar mitzvah ceremony which they could not celebrate in the customary way because of their disability. In addition we see that since 1831 girls were also called upon to participate. This became a way of giving both children with disabilities and girls a fuller place in Jewish life.

Chaya has also provided a chapter for the Leo Baeck Yearbook 2012, which will be devoted entirely to *The German Rabbinate Abroad*. This will be a whole book tracing the influence that German Rabbis, who had emigrated or fled, had on Jewish life in their countries of immigration. For this project she wrote an article on "*Dutch Jewry and its Undesired German Rabbinate*", dealing with the contribution of German Rabbis in the Netherlands in the 19th and 20th centuries, ending of course with our own LJG-Rabbis Dr. Jacob Mehler and Dr. Hans Andorn.

The intention is that Chaya Brasz will present her findings during the opening of the academic year 2012-2013, probably in early September 2012.

For more information about the project, see the Annual Report 2009-2010 and the project description in Appendix 1, page 22 in the Annual Report 2008-2009. Both reports are available on the website <http://www.levisson.nl/en/about-us/annual-reports.html>.

The project is funded by the Prins Bernhard Culture Fund, the Maror Foundation, the Henriëtte Boas Fund and the Maatschappij tot Nut van de Israëlieten in Nederland (the Society for Public Welfare of the Israelites in the Netherlands). The research will culminate in a book, which will be published in English by the Hebrew Union College Press in Cincinnati at the end of 2013. Later it will appear in a Dutch-language edition.

The Library



In early July 2010 the library moved from the temporary building on the Stadionweg to the new building. There the books have been placed in a beautiful space in which it is a pleasure to study, read and hold meetings. This does occasionally cause problems in booking the room for an activity. Lectures and text study involving many different books are, however, given a high priority.

The project of digitally cataloguing the books was at long last formally concluded on 31 December 2010. The financial accounting to the Maror Foundation and other donors for their grants was approved without problems. Following the completion of this project quite a number of books have been added to the collection, but adding them to the catalogue has been held up. The librarian has been “on loan” to the Rabbi’s office for all of 2011 and only a few hours per week remained for work in the library. In the meantime it was decided to give her a permanent position in the Rabbi’s office. A good replacement has been found who will start work on 1 January 2012.

During the year covered in this report, work on defining and building suitable software for the lending of books was completed. This software has now been installed and tested. With the help of volunteers, the library will be opened early in 2012 for a number of hours each week.

During the year the joint Library Committee was restructured. The new chairperson is Rabbi Kineret Sittig, Secretary and Treasurer is Stefan Pinkus, members are Daniel van Mourik, Jeta Leeda, and the rabbis David Lilienthal and Menno ten Brink. The secretary of the Board of LJG Amsterdam, Ellen Schrijver, attends all the meetings.

Adjacent to the library, a reading area has been created where a bookcase placed with a wide range of literature—intended to be kind of “book exchange”—is always open. Those who find something of interest may just take the book. Later she or he can bring it back or pass it on to someone else. If you have a book you think others should also read, you can bring it and place it in the bookcase. The aim is to partly address the fact that the library itself only contains a very limited amount of fiction and then, in principle, only interesting books that are not easily found elsewhere. The catalogue can be searched on www.levissonbibliotheek.nl, where all information on the library is also found (in Dutch). See also <http://www.levisson.nl/en/about-us/librabry.html> for information in English.

Changes in the Board

During the year we again had to say goodbye to two Board members. For reasons of health Judge Fred Solomon had to resign after only a short period on the Board. During this time he still managed to deal resourcefully with a number of important legal issues, for which we thank him. His position has since been filled by David Allick, a lawyer who has also been a board member of LJC Amsterdam. He will now be our legal expert on the Levisson Board.

Furthermore, we also said farewell to Wilma Stein, who was the last person that had been a board member since the inception of the Levisson Institute. After ten years of service and because of her age, the time had come to make room for a new generation. As Secretary, with an incomparably extensive Jewish network in the Netherlands, she played a pivotal role in the building of the Institute. We are greatly indebted to her for her wisdom, patience, commitment and uncountable hours of hard work for the Foundation.

Wilma Stein's position as Secretary was taken over by Simone Haller, former board member of LJC Amsterdam and long-time chairman of the Study Centre. She passed her duties as treasurer of our Board on to Dr. Thijs ten Raa, Professor of Economics at Tilburg University and member of both LJC Amsterdam and Beit Ha'Chidush.

The Dean

In our previous Annual Report we mentioned that the Dean, Rabbi David Lilienthal, has indicated that he wants to pass his position and work for the Institute on to a successor. This is planned for the time when the current group of students have received their *semicha*, probably after the summer of 2012. The Board, the Academic Committee and, indirectly, the Board of Rabbis are involved in the search for a successor and in discussions concerning the organisational structure of the Institute and its financing. To date, no conclusions have been reached or decisions taken. As soon as the positions become clear, the decisions will be published in a suitable manner.

The Friends

As you may deduce from the reports above, the work of the Institute has been firmly established. We are making plans for a new group of Rabbinic students to start in September 2013 in order to graduate by the time several of the now-active Rabbis reach retirement age. We are also developing a policy for providing continuous education (Professional Development) and finding ways of financing this. The latter is unfortunately not an easy task; the budget for 2011-2012 shows a deficit of €30.000.

We owe a great debt of thanks to the Friends and supporters of our Foundation and the Institute for their continuing moral and financial support. With that we especially want to thank several Friends who have significantly increased their contributions in 2011. The continuity of the work of the Institute depends entirely on these voluntary contributions. The same special thank you is due to the Levi Lassen Foundation, Maror Foundation and the several smaller foundations for their trust in and commitment to our work.

The work of the Institute may be firmly established but it still seems like a giant on feet of clay. The financial crisis has this year, again, adversely affected the finances of our organization and we are now forced to use our reserves to meet our obligations. We do not expect that an improvement in the economy will emerge in the near future. Despite our attempts to economize and make further savings without diminishing the quality of the education offered, we begin to fear for the future of the Institute.

Somehow a permanent solution must be found for the financing so that we can be freed from the uncertainty that prevents us from making long-term commitments to both our students and lecturers. We are looking at various ideas and alternatives, but for now we need *you* to help us find more Friends, Donors, Foundations and Funds who are willing to invest in the maintenance and continuity of Liberal Judaism in the Netherlands.

Plans for 2011-2012 and beyond

In early 2010, a survey of the future leadership needs in our congregations showed that around 2019-2020 the Netherlands Union for Progressive Judaism (NVPJ) will need an additional four fulltime Rabbis, dividing their time over the various ten congregations and the associated organisations. This poll forms the basis for the projection on page 8 that we need to have a new group of students begin in September 2013.

The recruitment of suitable candidates should be done primarily by the congregations in the Union and by the active Rabbis. Experience—our own and that of others—has shown that not all students complete the training. A number leave because, for various reasons, they cannot meet the requirements. We have also seen that Rabbis trained elsewhere and on whom we counted on for many years to come have, for their own reasons, found other employment or congregations abroad. This means that the next starting class should not be too small; this is the reason for our appeal for help in the recruitment of suitable candidates.

To this we need to add that if we will be in the position of offering potential students the prospect of some form of employment after they complete their training, that would be of great importance in the recruitment efforts. The *semicha* they receive will be internationally recognized but the intention remains that the Rabbis we train will be working in the Netherlands.

The Board, the Academic Committee and the present Dean are also reviewing the possibilities of offering other courses and developing additional activities. These are all directed towards raising the level of knowledge of Judaism and commitment to Jewish life in the community. But before giving these plans more attention, we must ensure that our main task, the training of Rabbis, will continue at the present or a higher level.

2. The Finances

Annual accounts August 2010 through July 2011

The annual accounts for 2009-2010 have been drawn up by JAN Accountants in Landsmeer. What follows is a summary. Those wishing to receive a complete copy of the annual accounts (only available in Dutch) are kindly requested to contact the Foundation: contact@levisson.nl.

A reminder: Early in 2009 the Statutes of the Institute were officially modified to synchronise the fiscal and academic years (August 1 through July 31).

Balance as at July 31, 2011

<i>Assets</i>		<i>Liabilities</i>	
Accounts receivable/prepayments	€ 23.086	Founding capital	€ 135.372
Cash	€ 226.782	Appropriated reserves	€ 62.914
		Taxes	€ 1.660
		Debts/deferrals	€ 49.922
<i>Total</i>	€ 249.868	<i>Total</i>	€ 249.868

Notes

The “Appropriated reserves” are divided over four funds:

Students’ fund	€ 27.019
Israel seminar fund	€ 15.000
Scholarly research fund	€ 9.000
Teacher Training Program	€ 11.895

1. The Students’ fund (€27.019) provides financial support for students in tight financial circumstances for costs directly related to their studies. The initial funding was collected as a present for the Dean when he became Emeritus Rabbi of the Amsterdam Liberal Jewish Community.
2. The Israel seminar fund (€15.000) was set up in 2005 to facilitate regular seminars in Israel without drawing on the regular budget.
3. An amount of €10.000 was reserved in 2005 for scholarly research, which is done mainly abroad. The fund dispersed €1.000 in 2008, reducing the reserve by this sum. In the year 2010-2011 no moneys were taken from or added to the fund.
4. In 2007 the Kiwi-Tielens Foundation made a donation, which was initially used to finance cantorial training in the 2007-2009 academic years, but which could also be used for other statutory purposes as well. The board decided to allocate the unused sum of €11.895 in the fiscal year 2010-2011 for a reserve for the teacher training program.

Profit and Loss account August 2009 through July 2010

<i>Receipts:</i>		<i>Expenditures:</i>	
Friends and other donations	€31.707	Dean/Administrative assistance	€38.137
Grants	€76.181	Lecturers and courses	€40.368
Publication book	€13.400	Seminars	€ 1.570
Tuition fees Rab. students	€ 9.665	Expenditures Dean/Board/ Committees	€ 4.307
Contributions Teachers	€ 5.650	Books and course materials	€10.963
Interest	€ 3.108	Communication	€ 5.718
Other income	€ 87	Housing and facilities	€ 1.620
		Publication book	€18.490
		Accountant/wages administration	€ 7.180
		Miscellaneous/unforeseen	€ 2.831
<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 139.798</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>€ 131.184</i>

Positive balance profit and loss account €8.614

Notes

The credit balance of €8.614 is due to lower expenditures for lecturers than originally budgeted. The main reason for this is that a number of lecture hours belonging to the academic year 2010-2011 were actually only realized in August 2011 and that thus these expenses were only made after the closing of the financial year.

The item accountant/wage administration remained within the budget for this year. We still feel the costs should be lowered even further and are looking for ways to do this.

There are no funds and foundations in The Netherlands that specifically aim to support educational institutions. Even a professional fundraiser has not been able to find any. Education is considered by society to be the responsibility of the government. Due to its small size and limited target group, however, an institute such as ours does not readily qualify for state support. We therefore appreciate even more the support from Maror Foundation and the Stichting Levi Lassen, some private foundations, the Verbond and a few of the Liberal Jewish Congregations, and the Friends of our Institute. We are most grateful for their support.

We continue to seek other foundations or funds that are prepared to support our work. In addition, we are looking for more permanent solutions and ways to connect with already existing programs.

Our Friends are kept informed about the work of the Institute and are regularly invited to attend meetings that usually include a lecture by a speaker from The Netherlands or abroad.

Fundraising and Budgets

For the year 2010-2011 we have been granted a Maror Foundation subsidy for a maximum of €20.000, but with the restriction that these monies are to be used exclusively to pay for the lecturers and the cost of training courses in the Rabbinic program. Since a number of lectures had to be postponed, Maror has readily agreed to extend the project period until 1 January 2012.

For the year 2011-2012, we were granted a Maror subsidy of €15.000. Maror has again agreed to extend this project period until 1 January 2013. This grant is just as the previous one limited for us to pay the lecturers and the costs of training courses in the Rabbinic program. It is important to note that the grant from Maror decreases per year.

The Levi Lassen Foundation has given us an amount of €25.000 per year for the period 2010 up to and including 2012. The budget of the Institute for 2011-2012 amounts to €124.700. This budget shows a deficit of €31.700 which means that the capital reserves of the Levisson Foundation will decrease by this amount.

We are, therefore, looking for more Friends, Foundations and Funds willing to support our work, preferably for a longer period and with a fixed annual amount.

Historical research – the Adath Jeschurun-project

The original deficit in the budget of the research project of Chaya Brasz of €8.815 was in the course of the year reduced to €1.315 thanks to subsidies received from the Henriëtte Boas Foundation and The Maatschappij tot Nut van de Israëlieten in Nederland (the Society for Public Welfare of the Israelites in the Netherlands). We are still looking for donors willing to help us cover this last open amount.

Teacher training program

The budget for the two-year Teacher Training Program is €58.575. By some raising of funds we have—in spite of the negative reaction from the Maror Foundation to our request for a grant—been able to cover most of this projected expenditure. The shortfall now amounts to some €15.000. This result is also due to cuts in the spending and to the coordinators of the training and some of the lecturers who have waived their honoraria.

Project joint digitizing of three libraries

This project was successfully completed on 31 December 2010. The Levisson Institute has finalized the agreement with the LJG Amsterdam for the budget for the library, so as to make sure that the cataloguing of new books and the upkeep of the library will be continued. The cost will be shared 50/50 and the Levisson part is included in the budget. This amounts to €2000 per year and in addition we have reserved the same amount to keep the collection up to date with new publications and magazines.

In the meantime discussions are beginning about the consequences for us of the increase in e-books and other electronic means of distributing information and content. Whenever (and if) conclusions in this area are reached, we will report them in an appropriate manner.